

## U.S. plans \$2.4b jet sale to Israel

WASHINGTON (R) — The Clinton administration notified Congress Monday that it plans to sell 25 advanced McDonnell Douglas F-15 fighter jets to Israel for \$2.4 billion. The plan, announced by the Pentagon and expected to be completed without opposition from Congress, will be larger than the initial project announced by Israel in January under which that government would have bought 20 of the jets for \$2 billion. The F-15s are one of the most advanced versions of the big company's F-15 fighters. The special 'I' model will include both air combat superiority and long-range ground attack capability for Israel's air force. Included in the proposed package are 25 sets of "Lantirn" navigation and targeting pods, which are mounted on the jets in give them all-weather ground attack capability over long distances. The Israeli air force already has older model F-15 fighter jets as well as U.S. F-16 jets. But the new models will allow the U.S. air force to enhance its air-to-air and air-to-ground defense capability," the Pentagon said.

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### Peacekeeping general reports to King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received at the Royal Court the commander of the peacekeeping forces in Croatia, Major-General Ghazi Al Tayeb, who briefed the King on the situation in former Yugoslavia and the role of the U.N. forces in maintaining peace and security. Gen. Tayeb said the Jordanian forces participating in peacekeeping operations in the Yugoslav republics were widely admired.

### Anani briefs U.N. media delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Jawaad Al Anani Monday received a media delegation currently visiting Jordan under arrangements by the Palestine Section of the U.N. Department of Public Information. Dr. Anani briefed the delegation on the latest developments in the peace process and Jordan's role in pushing the process forward to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region in accordance with U.N. resolutions. The delegation includes journalists working for major newspapers in 13 foreign countries in addition to three U.N. supervisors.

### Gulf oil spill cleanup halted

FUJARAH (AP) — Authorities Monday abandoned efforts to mop up a massive two-week-old oil spill, letting millions of gallons disperse in the open sea. Michael Soros of the Greek cleanup firm Fairdeal said Fujarah port had given the order to stop clearing the 40-kilometre slick created by a March 30 tanker collision in the Gulf of Oman. He said only about one-quarter of the 120,000-barrel spill had been recovered. Port officials, speaking in exchange for anonymity, said most of the remainder had washed out into the Arabian Sea.

### Fate activist suspected of killing

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Israeli army has detained a member of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fateh faction suspicion of killing an Israeli on Feb. 25, the day of the Hebron massacre, military sources said on Monday. They said Ali Ra'i, 57, was captured at his home in Deir Al Balah refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip on Sunday. "He (Ra'i) belonged to Fateh organisation and he was transferred to investigation by security forces," one military source said. An elderly Israeli man was hacked to death with an axe in central Israel hours after the Hebron mosque massacre. Mr. Arafat forbade attacks on Israelis under a September peace deal with Israel. Some activists, angry at continued Israeli army pursuit and killing of wanted Fateh men, recently vowed to resume attacks in defiance of PLO orders.

### Iraqi leader pardons 4 jailed Romanians

BUCHAREST (R) — Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein has pardoned four Romanians convicted of illegally entering Iraq in 1992, in response to a plea from Romania's President Ion Iliescu, the Romanian foreign minister said on Monday. "Romania had made countless previous demarches for their release, even asking for their extradition," ministry spokesman Mircea Gioana told Reuters. Mr. Gioana named the four as Dumitru Danila, Nicolae Agachi, Florin Bojaga and Gabrie Encea, saying the four men, in their early 30s, had been tried and convicted for illegally entering Iraq from Turkey two years ago. The Iraqi president signed their pardon on Sunday night, after seeing Mr. Iliescu's envoy Marcel Dinu, who delivered Mr. Iliescu's "humanitarian appeal, requesting the release of the four jailed Romanians," the state news agency Rompres said. Foreign ministry sources said the four had already been released from prison near Baghdad and were expected back in Bucharest on Tuesday.

## Peace process is in crisis, needs urgent effort — King

Austrian president begins state visit, speaks of common vision, says Mideast is vital for Europe

By P. V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein warned Monday that the Middle East peace process was facing a crucial crisis and called on the United States to salvage the 29-month-old Arab-Israeli negotiations which he said were threatened by the disappointment of people who hoped to enjoy the fruits of peace.

In some of the strongest yet comments over the slow pace of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations over self-rule in the occupied territories and mounting violence there amid Israeli efforts to extract Arab concessions, the King said the region was slipping into an "abyss of despair and disaster."

The King, who was speaking at a joint press conference with Austrian President Thomas Klestil, reaffirmed that Jordan's resumption of peace talks with Israel was "contingent on resolving" the problem

that the Kingdom faces from the continued blockade of the port of Aqaba as part of the enforcement of the 44-month-old international sanctions against Iraq.

The King described the siege of Aqaba as an intolerable situation and a "treatment that has been directed at Jordan in particular and out of all countries in the region" despite the Kingdom's compliance with United Nations Security Council resolutions.

"We cannot be distrusted on the one hand and humiliated as a people and yet continue to play this role that we have played sincerely and honestly," the King said.

"We will not bow to any unwarranted pressure from any court," said the King, adding that Jordan had "indication that the problem is being addressed."

"We hope to have a positive response soon," said the King.

President Klestil, who arrived earlier in the day on a three-day state visit, praised Jordan's commitment to peace. He described King Hussein as "a close friend... an anchor of stability in the region without whom there cannot be a solution to the Palestinian problem."

The Austrian president, making his second visit to Jordan in seven months, said Europe was ready to make large investments in the Middle East region, but businessmen needed peace and stability before they would commit port.

Throughout his comments at the press conference, the King repeatedly warned that the peace process was imperiled.

"There is no doubt that there is a crisis that has developed out of the expectations of people that have not been met yet, not even in any degree so far," said the King.

"The sense of alarm, the sense of despair is growing and that is causing a great deal of distress to the peace camp as such, and all those who believe in it wherever they are," he said.

He expressed hope that the U.S., a co-sponsor of the peace

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## PLO resigned to delay on Gaza-Jericho agreement

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) resigned itself on Monday to further delay in Israeli withdrawal to make way for Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Chief PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath said he could even accept the end of the month as the target date for agreement on the details, as proposed by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

"So I hope when May will come, all of us will see spring time in political sense not just only in diplomatic one," said Mr. Peres, who was on a visit to Turkey.

Under the withdrawal pact — an important step towards a possible Israeli-Palestinian peace accord — the pullout from Gaza and Jericho was to be completed by Wednesday. Both sides have traded accusations of foot dragging, and the talks have stalled due to violence and disagreement over substantive issues.

Mr. Peres added that he had no plans to meet with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. Israel is angry that Mr. Arafat has not publicly condemned last week's car-bombing that killed seven Israelis.

Since the pullout has not even started, the PLO at least had hoped to reach agreement by Wednesday on a plan for Israeli withdrawal and deployment of Palestinian police.

While Dr. Shaath said negotiators were making progress, he conceded "some substantive issues" remain undecided.

"My estimate is that if we're going on the speed we are going now, maybe seven to 10 days will be just about enough" to reach agreement, he said.

Dr. Shaath said negotiators agreed to a deployment plan for Palestinian police Monday morning and were close to settling on a schedule for freeing Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

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## Israelis wound 4 during observers' visit to Hebron

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded at least four Palestinians in Hebron on Monday during a fact-finding mission by an advance team of an international observer force, witnesses said.

A 17-member team from Norway, Denmark and Italy — the countries contributing to the 160-strong force — met Hebron's mayor and the head of the Israeli military government.

Israel agreed to allow foreign observers in Hebron in a deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) following the massacre of more than 30 Muslim worshippers in a Hebron mosque on Feb. 25.

But the advance team's visit drew threats from Islamic hardliners opposed to making peace with Israel.

"If the foreign presence proves to be counterproductive to Palestinians' hopes, Islamists will escalate opposition to their presence here, and make it unbearable," said a supporter of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas.

Knut Vollehaek, director-general of the Norwegian foreign ministry, told reporters in Hebron no date had been set

for the force's deployment. He said it was still undecided whether the observers would be armed.

But Mayor Moustafa Al Nathe told reporters the force would not carry weapons and said it would start deploying next week.

Mr. Nathe said the first contingent of the 160-member observer force would arrive next week but indicated that the observers would not be carrying weapons.

"They will not be armed, but they will help to create an atmosphere of security in the town" by trying to break up clashes between Palestinians and troops of Jewish settlers, he said.

Palestinians on all sides have said that Hebron will not return to normal until Israel removes the 450 Jewish settlers scattered among six enclaves in the city of 110,000 Palestinians.

Earlier, the team entered Hebron in several cars flying the Norwegian, Italian and Danish flags. They were escorted by two Israeli army vehicles.

Dozens of Palestinian shopkeepers stood outside stores in the city centre closed by military order since the massacre.

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## Compromise reported on Lebanese press bill

BEIRUT (AP) — Prime Minister Rafik Hariri was reported Monday to have reached a compromise with Lebanon's newspapers, averting a showdown with the press.

The reported accord strips the government of Lebanon of any powers to shut down a newspaper, magazine or weekly as was previously the case, leaving such a decision to the courts.

Several Beirut dailies said the accord was worked out in prolonged weekend meeting between Mr. Hariri and the chairmen of Lebanon's newspapers publishers union, Mohammad Baabakri, and the reporters association, Milhem Karam.

All three refrained from divulging more details of the agreement, but Mr. Hariri called it in an interview published by the conservative daily Al Liwa "a real revolution in favour of the press, a historic compromise."

The accord was scheduled to be finalised in a cabinet session Monday evening. It will then be referred to parliament, which will either vote it into law or reject it.

It also strips the government of the right to suspend any newspaper or put any journalist in jail before trial and conviction, the newspapers said.

Mr. Hariri's government kicked up a storm of protest when it approved last week a new press bill that made articles provoking sectarian dissent or slandering heads of state punishable by up to three years' imprisonment and a maximum fine of \$50 million (S300,000).

The bill was denounced by Beirut's 11 dailies as condemning the press to death in peacetime after it survived the horrors of Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war. The uproar forced the government to reconsider the bill.

Monday's reports said the proposed penalty for slandering national and foreign heads of state or instigating confessional dissent was lowered in the new agreement to a maximum of two years in jail and a 200 million (\$185,000) fine.

All newspapers hailed the

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## NATO bombs Serbs again, but Gorazde siege continues

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) jets, brushing aside Russian anger, bombed Bosnian Serb forces around Gorazde on Monday for the second time in two days after Serb gunners renewed their assault on the Muslim enclave.

"NATO jets have engaged (Serb) military targets for about 20 to 25 minutes," said a U.N. military source, adding that the air raid began at about 2.15 p.m. (1215 GMT).

Before the second air strike, U.N. officials said Bosnian Serbs pounded Gorazde with artillery, tank and machinegun fire on Monday morning, wounding about 200 refugees housed in the town centre.

After the NATO bombing was reported, U.N. spokesman Major Dacre Holloway said, "We are conducting air activity

with planes flying low overhead. We are trying to give them every opportunity to get the message but if they don't learn they will get the big stick."

Major Holloway could not confirm reports that NATO fighters had dropped flares earlier beside Serb tanks firing on Gorazde, but he did not rule it out, saying such action is a common warning tactic.

In Zagreb, a U.N. press information officer said: "We believe that the tanks were targeted this time."

On Sunday, two NATO F-16s dropped three bombs on a Bosnian Serb artillery command post following repeated warnings to halt an assault on the "safe haven" of Gorazde.

Despite Sunday's air strike, sniper fire hit U.N. offices housing military observers and aid workers on Monday, while

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## Fierce fighting rages in Kigali as rebels close in

KIGALI, Rwanda (Agencies)

Fierce fighting was reported Monday between the Rwandan army and rebels outside the capital of Kigali, where five days of violence and looting has left bodies piling up by the thousands.

Hundreds of Westerners have fled Rwanda by air and in truck convoys, while others hid in fear for their lives. Hundreds of people looted aid warehouses. At a hospital in Kigali, the devastated capital, doctors said soldiers slaughtered at least 100 patients in their beds.

Relief officials estimate as many as 10,000 people have been killed in Kigali alone. The fighting — the result of a decades-old struggle between the Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups — has forced hundreds of Europeans and Americans to flee the country, many for neighbouring Burundi.

fighting began after the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi, both Hutus, died in a suspicious plane crash on Wednesday.

The BBC, reporting Monday from Kigali, said fighting between the Hutu-dominated army and the mostly Tutsi Rwandan Patriotic Front rebels was continuing in Kigali and in northern Rwanda.

Augustin Mukama, a Rwandan Patriotic Front official in Kampala, Uganda, told Africa No. 1 radio that rebel forces entered Kigali on Monday. Mocar Gueye, spokesman for the U.N. observer mission in Rwanda, said automatic weapons fire was heard throughout Kigali on Monday and there was shelling on the outskirts of the city.

Mr. Gueye refused to comment on a report that the U.N.'s commander in Rwanda, General Romeo Dallaire, was trying to arrange a ceasefire. The Rwandan army and the rebels reportedly agreed on a truce Sunday, but Gen. Dallaire said nothing was signed.

The U.N.'s 1,900-man mission in Rwanda was monitoring a ceasefire negotiated last August as part of an attempt to establish a coalition government. But efforts towards forming such a government repeatedly failed.

Bursts of heavy machinegun fire clattered around streets soaked in the blood of rotting corpses and patrolled by roving bands of drunken soldiers.

U.N. sources said a shell hit a Kigali hospital late on Sunday, killing 27 people and injuring more than 100. Top Rwandan rebel leaders said their forces comprised of two battalions were closing in on Kigali from three sides to

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## Fighter jets bomb Afghan capital

KABUL (AP) — Fighter jets belonging to Afghanistan's powerful Uzbek warlord bombed the shattered capital Monday in nearly three weeks. There were no immediate reports of casualties, but at least nine bombs was believed to have landed in a residential area, according to eye witnesses. Witnesses said the jets dropped six bombs in two sorties over the capital. Warlord Rashid Dostum and his ally, renegade Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, whose forces have managed to hold on in key military sites. At least two bombs hit a strategic, Rabani-held hill on the western edge of the city, said government officials. Another bomb landed on a Rabani-controlled hill behind the residential neighbourhood of Wazir Akbar Khan in east Kabul. Most civilians have fled Wazir Akbar Khan, but it is still home to the International Committee for the Red Cross. Hours before the jet attack, the warning sides waged a fierce artillery battle in Kabul's eastern district. There were no reports of casualties. Few civilians still live in eastern neighbourhoods of Kabul.

## Israel seeks an end to dependence on Palestinians

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (AP) — Until Sunday, Hassan Marouf thought that no matter what problems arose in the Arab-Israeli peace process, he would keep his 25-year-old job as a construction supervisor in Israel.

Then Israel's cabinet announced the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip will be sealed off from Israel indefinitely and 18,000 foreign labourers imported. The moves are intended to assuage security fears and break Israel's dependence on Palestinian labour.

"But they created widespread despair among Palestinians, who viewed it as collective punishment that will create permanent unemployment and cut them off from Jerusalem, their religious, cultural and political centre."

Both Israelis and Palestinians predicted more violence. Major General Matan Vilnai, Israel's southern commander, ordered troops back into refugee camps to deal with the anticipated violence, the Haaretz newspaper reported Sunday.

"I've never been so scared in my life. There were closures before, but I always knew I would go back to work," said Mr. Marouf, who has 10 children. "Now, I'm not sure I will have a job to go back to."

Over 120,000 Palestinians had day jobs in Israel until March 1993, when a series of stabbing deaths inside Israel brought a strict closure and the number of work permits was halved. Fears of revenge

attacks after a Jewish settler killed more than 30 Palestinian workers in Hebron Feb. 25 brought another closure.

Pressure from construction and agriculture firms that rely on cheap Palestinian workers has forced such closures to be rescinded in the past. But each closure leaves fewer Palestinians with jobs in Israel.

The latest closure came after a suicide car bomber from the West Bank killed seven Israelis and wounded 45 last Wednesday, followed a day later by a Gazan who killed one and wounded four at a bus stop.

Both attacks, carried out by Palestinians from the occupied territories, were claimed by groups which oppose the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy accord and have vowed to wreck Israel's "independence day" celebrations Thursday.

Naboul Dabbour, an economist who works at the Palestinian bureau of statistics in Jerusalem, said remittances from labourers who work or trade in Israel bring about \$7 million daily into the Gaza and the West Bank. He predicted unemployment would jump from 37 per cent to at least 50 per cent.

The cabinet approved bringing in 18,000 foreign labourers to replace Palestinians. Although Israel's unemployment rate hovers at 10 per cent, welfare checks tend to match the wages from the meager jobs Palestinians fill.

Social and Welfare Minister Ora Namir said the foreign workers, mainly from former

Yugoslavia and Thailand, will be given six month visas. In the three to five weeks it will take for them to be absorbed into jobs here, the ministry will employ soldiers and high school students to fill in the gap, she said.

There are already 8,000 foreign labourers in Israel, about 2,000 Thais in agriculture and 6,000 East Europeans in construction.

Some cabinet ministers said the closure could stay in place until Palestinian self-rule goes into effect, something not expected for weeks. A pre-autonomy pullback of Israeli troops is expected to slow down.

While eager to be independent of Israel, Palestinians believe after 27 years of occupation they cannot survive an abrupt separation.

They also believe Israel is using the closure to draw borders that put Arab East Jerusalem inside its territory and out of reach for eventual talks on the status of all occupied territory.

Palestinians want a capital for their would-be state in East Jerusalem.

"Israel is trying through the closure to consolidate its hold on Jerusalem and face us with a fait accompli on the annexation of East Jerusalem," said Haaqo Ashrawi, a leading Palestinian.

Hospital administrators in Gaza said the closure will affect dozens of patients who receive treatment in Jerusalem. Israel has said it would try to ease medical cases.



ENTRY DENIED: Israeli soldiers on Monday prevent Palestinians from entering the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron, site of a Feb. 25 massacre of more than 30 worshippers by a Jewish settler. Monday's confrontation led to clashes and at least four Palestinians were shot and wounded (see page one) (AFP photo)

## Would-be heir to Rabin makes a move

TEL AVIV (R) — A former cabinet minister touted as a possible successor to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin made a grab for the political limelight on Monday by announcing his candidacy to lead Israel's biggest trade federation.

Haim Ramon, 43, embarrassed Mr. Rabin, 72, on February by quitting as health minister after the cabinet withdrew Mr. Ramon's far-reaching bill for health care.

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## Crown Prince encourages study of former education policies, new methods

By Natasha Bukhari  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday urged all educationalists to seek the country's best interest by developing an inclusive programme to cater for society's intellectual, social and economic needs.

"We need to reconsider the effectiveness of former policies to find their defects," said Prince Hassan at a seminar to assess the progress of the National Education Strategy charted in 1987. To that end he called on the participants in the "Educational Development — Second Stage" seminar to start reeducating themselves and develop awareness of the impracticality of bureaucratic policies in education and the need to implement methods of education that would provide a solid foundation for a "Jordanian school" that is capable of challenging external aggression.

"It is everyone's duty to work towards an all-encompassing aim for progress," said the Crown Prince. He also discussed the prob-

lems of unemployment among many of the country's youth and urged intellectuals to start a campaign to spread awareness of market forces in Jordan explaining the country's need for labour skills.

"This initiative is linked to our goals," said Prince Hassan, pointing to the country's responsibility towards economic reforms and its agreements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The Crown Prince stressed the need to "contain this problem" by ridding citizens of their complex concerning worthy professions and misconceptions of what a good education means.

Superficial assessments linked to quantity rather than quality gave people's choice of their line of education, he said, citing as evidence the number of unemployed lawyers and doctors in the country and the import of foreign labour.

Minister of Education Khaled Omari concluded the two-day seminar by presenting participants with 90 recommendations on improving the National Education Strategy.

The first session, Monday,

## Turkey values economic ties with Mideast

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior Turkish official held high-level talks here Monday on the Middle East peace process and bilateral relations and said later Ankara attaches much importance to developing economic cooperation among the countries of the Middle East.

Osman Sanberk, undersecretary of the Turkish Foreign Ministry, said his talks here also covered the strife in former Yugoslavia as well as the implications for Turkey and Jordan of the continuing international sanctions against Iraq.

"Since Jordan plays a crucial role in the ongoing Middle East peace process, the Jordanian side elaborated in detail this particular issue," Mr. Sanberk told the Jordan Times.

After talks with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan.

Describing the talks as very fruitful, the Turkish official said there were "no problems whatsoever between Turkey and Jordan on the bilateral level," and that "we acted with satisfaction that our visas concerning the international as well as regional issues are widely converging."

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Minister Hassan and Mr. Sanberk reviewed progress in the peace process and the implementation of

dealt with the reality of education in Jordan and discussed the need to improve standards of educationalists' training.

Ministry officials argued that lack of funds was a major obstacle to providing good training.

"Only 12 per cent of the ministry's funds is specified for operational programmes," said Dr. Omari.

The minister also touched upon reasons behind the failure of training programmes to achieve the desired results. He said that the ministry was hasty in implementing the programme and that it did not take its time in setting a strategy for proper implementation.

Mohammad Assira, of the Ministry of Education, presented a paper discussing the administrative and technical difficulties of training programmes which mainly revolved around the lack of specialists compounded by financial restrictions that do not allow for providing technical equipment to aid the process of education.

The final paper of the seminar presented by Thouran Obeida addressed educational supervision, which he described as being full of contradictions and surrounded by obstacles.

He said supervisors received minimal training, and the achievements of supervisors were few.

Meanwhile, participants agreed that to implement a successful training and qualifying programme in the country, a new policy based on decentralisation should be adopted to make room for flexible arrangements to serve different areas based on priorities and the different needs of institutions in various parts of the country.

The two-day seminar was concluded Monday with what participants described as a feeling that vital issues on education were discussed and that a more progressive policy will be adopted for a more successful educational scheme that will help educationalists in their quest for the "right" formula for the country's progress.

"I am pleased with the level of interaction and feel that we now speak a common language, which will help us find solutions for our problems," said Dr. Omari.

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## Limited water sources, population needs form dangerous imbalance, says minister

By Ian Atallah and  
Eli Nasrallah  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Water and Irrigation Hisam Al Khatib Monday said Jordan's limited surface and underground water sources have caused an imbalance in the equation of sources in population.

In the Kingdom's water

sources are clearly unable to cope with the population growth and the vertical expansion in farming and industries, said the minister in opening a meeting by the committee implementing two U.N.-funded projects in the Middle East region.

Dr. Khatib said over-pumping and over-use of water resources is endangering the existence of these water sources in the region.

He said Jordan is conducting field studies and exploring new water sources and developing existing ones in order to meet increasing demands.

The U.N.-funded projects deal with the management of water resources and the establishment of water data bank.

Delegates represented on the committee come from Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria.

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# Opinion & Analysis

## Jordan Times

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### Pivotal role for a great friend

AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT Thomas Klestil's state visit to Jordan is a welcome development in Austrian-Jordanian relations. The Jordanian leadership has enjoyed the best of relations with the leadership in Vienna in the past decades.

These exceptionally good relations between Amman and Vienna did not take roots in vacuum. Ever since the end of World War II and the emergence of Austria as a neutral state at the outset of the cold war era that characterised relations between the major powers of the world, the various Austrian governments succeeded in playing one of the most constructive and positive roles not only as far as the Arab-Israeli conflict is concerned but also with regard to other flash points in other places in the world. Of particular significance was Vienna's capacity to improve contacts between the developed and developing nations at a time when the gap between the North and the South was steadily increasing. In recognition of this masterful performance, Vienna was chosen as the seat for the third biggest centre for international organisations after New York and Geneva. When the international community decided to convene a world conference on Human Rights last year, there was near unanimity that Vienna should host such a gathering. Last June was the occasion when the World Conference on Human Rights was held in the U.N. complex in Vienna and Austria made great contributions for its success.

The choice of Austria as head of the multilateral working group on water-sharing in the Middle East is also a living testimony to the central position that Austria occupies in the search for a permanent and just peace in the region. Vienna, in fact, has always lent support to peace overtures in the region. Still this is only one aspect of the bilateral relations between the two countries. The other dimension is no less important and found repeated expression in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis when Jordan could rely on Austrian friendship and understanding. Vienna stood by Jordan in those trying days and maintained with it the best of cooperation and coordination.

And with Austria near to joining the European Union, its pivotal role in shaping the future relations between Europe and the Middle East is bound to be met with greater appreciation from all sides. This is due to Austria's ability to demonstrate time and again a steady outlook on events and developments in the area that reflect sober appraisal of the factors that contribute to tension in the region. With the peace process on the Arab-Israeli conflict still too far from accomplishing its goals, there is always room for positive interventions by Austria to save the quest for peace in the Middle East from doom and make sure it is not derailed.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily said Monday that the United States is escalating its pressure on Jordan at this moment through the continued siege on Aqaba because Jordan is adhering firmly to its agenda on the talks with Israel and demanding that questions like water and refugees be settled in full. The U.S. wants the Kingdom to respond to Israel's demands and conclude a separate peace treaty with Israel immediately without any pre-conditions, something which the Kingdom can by no means do, said Fahed Al Fanek. The U.S.-led forces imposed the siege on Aqaba in 1990 under the pretext of preventing goods from reaching Iraq and the blockade has continued for the sole purpose of pressuring Jordan into accepting Israel's terms for a separate peace, added the writer. He said that Jordan is committed to peace in the region but it would resist the continued blockade on its only port.

### The View from Fourth Circle

## The family as ideological opportunity

By Rami G. Khouri

THIS YEAR has been designated by the United Nations as the International Year of the Family, which most countries around the world will mark, as we have in Jordan, by awarding certificates of recognition to individuals and organisations that have contributed in some way to the promotion and strengthening of the family unit. This is a useful but insufficient gesture, for I believe that it behoves us to recognise and to address the issue of the family in the broader global social, political and even civilisational context that it deserves.

While the family unit is the universal expression of social organisation and communal/individual identity, the very wide range of family organisation throughout the world also makes the family an important element in the particularities that differentiate cultures from one another. The United Nations documentation on the International Year of the Family notes three basic types of families — nuclear, extended and reorganised — with each group further being subdivided into several smaller sub-groups. The extended family, for example, includes three-generation, kinship, tribal and polygamous families; the nuclear family comprises biological, social, one-parent, adoptive and in vitro families; and the reorganised family includes remarried, community living, and same-gender families.

The vast social and economic changes that define modern societies, in the north and south alike, mean that many traditional assumptions about the family have to be reassessed in order for societies to be able to meet the challenges of development and governance they face. Recent research suggests, for example, that our assumptions on the prevalence of the extended family in the Arab World may be out of date, as perhaps a majority of Arab households are now nuclear families and many are single-parent and female-headed. This trend will continue, in view of the brisk pace of urbanisation and industrialisation in our region.

The transformation of the Arab World within just two decades from a predominantly agrarian, extended family culture to one that is composed mainly of urban nuclear families has enormous implications for many sectors, including the economy, social stability, the status and condition of women and even national values and political governance. The strength of the family unit is largely responsible for the relative cohesion of Arab society in the wake of the massive social and economic changes that we have experienced in the last half a century. Some Arab societies that have recently suffered profound economic and political stress, such as Lebanon, Palestine, Kuwait, Iraq, Yemen, Somalia, Algeria and Egypt, have maintained their social fabric largely because of the strength of the family unit.

The composition of the family and its decision-making role in society also reflect broader political values that must be taken into consideration within the wider context of interaction between different cultures and civilisations. In this respect, we in the Arab World should celebrate the International Year of the Family in a more decisive manner that builds on our considerable strengths.

The Arab World has many problems and challenges, but it also has strengths and attributes of which it can be proud. The enduring role of the family as a factor for stability is one of these strengths. Not only can it be highlighted this year, but it can also be projected as a source of vitality and composure in a world seeking more coherence and responsiveness in basic

structures of social organisation.

Many Western democracies and northern industrialised societies are grappling with serious social problems that are manifested in drug usage, violence, sexual deviance, homelessness, health needs, education, care of the elderly and crime. We suffer proportionately fewer and less severe pressures in these fields, mainly because our strong family unit provides the nurturing and support that are the natural antidote to individuals who engage in self-destructive and socially disruptive behaviour.

It is interesting to note how Western politicians, especially in the United States and England, have tried to gain political advantage from promoting the strengths of the traditional family. American politicians speak routinely of "family values" and the British Conservative Party has mounted a less than impressive campaign to reemphasise the theme of "back to basics."

In both these cases, Western politicians have not gotten far because the basic forces in their societies emphasise individual rights and benefits, rather than the value of cohesive families. Our culture, by contrast, remains steadfastly anchored in family values — the family being defined in its broadest manifestation of the extended family, the tribe, or the ethnic group. The parliamentary elections in Jordan last year and the recent experiences of Yemen, Lebanon and Somalia also indicate the prevailing strength of family and blood ties in the face of the shortcomings of the state and the central government.

This distinction between the family role in asserting collective Arab/Islamic identity and communal organisation, as opposed to the primacy of the individual in Western industrialised societies, is not only a sociological distinction. It is also at the heart of the ideological and political particularities that differentiate the Orient from the Occident, and that may now expand in view of the civilisational interaction we witness among cultures on a global basis.

Many in the West sense that Western, Arab/Islamic and Buddhist/Confucian cultures are set for a period of prolonged competition and even confrontation, in the wake of the demise of Communism and the end of the cold war. The fact that cultures differ and adhere to distinct social values, does not necessarily mean that they must clash. In view of the International Year of the Family, it is appropriate to suggest that the subject of the family and its role in society can be developed as a point of constructive interaction between East and West, rather than a cause for confrontation.

In the last two years we saw human rights and environmentalism emerge intermittently as divisive issues among Eastern and Western cultures and next year the role of women may join this club. The family should be spared such a fate in the global marketplace of cultures and ideas. The family is one of the few subjects in which the Arab/Islamic World enjoys comparative advantage with the industrialised West and in which we can offer the West some meaningful experiences and values.

It would be constructive and productive for Arab/Islamic states to build on this advantage and to use the timeliness of the family issue to engage the West in a series of mutually beneficial interactions on the subject. We have much to learn from the West about issues such as democratisation, pluralism and the status of individuals and families in urban, consumer

societies; and we have much to offer the West about how to maintain strong families as the basis of stable, humane societies.

We would be remiss to mark the International Year of the Family only through a superficial celebration of noteworthy individuals and institutions. This is, rather, an opportunity to make our mark on the global stage of ideological and cultural interaction in a manner that also gains us greater political and ideological respect. This is an overtly political opportunity that allows us to revise the terms of reference of the transnational political debate that sees Arab/Islamic culture assessed according to predominantly Western criteria, i.e. Islam and democracy, Arabism and pluralism, Middle/Far Eastern culture and human rights, developing countries and modern technological civilisations.

The Western world, especially the United States, dominates the three main channels that are being used to mark the International Year of the Family: the media, the United Nations and the global scholarly community. This is not new. Since the late 18th century, the West has increasingly projected its political values, its governance systems, its social norms and its economic production systems not only as models for other countries to emulate, but also as standards against which other cultures should be judged. Our perspective, on the other hand, starts from a social base and a communal/national experience that are thousands of years old. We and the West share common moral values that are rooted in our Abrahamic religions and we share similar goals of individual dignity, national identity, material wellbeing and social stability. But we seek to attain those goals through different social systems and public political values.

The family (perhaps with religious morality) offers the best available means of redressing the last several hundred years of East/West disequilibrium. Our political, social and intellectual leaders should recognise that today's global focus on family provides a valuable opportunity to achieve two important goals: 1) To allow Arab/Islamic culture to regain its constructive, wholesome role as a contributor to the world's discussion of important ideas, and 2) To forge new, mutually constructive political, intellectual and social interaction with a Western world that we have too often found ourselves confronting this century.

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### LETTERS

## An infringement on common sense

To the Editor:

MRS. WOODWARD'S letter to the editor, "Foreign Channel renamed," (Jordan Times, April 7) struck me as a gross infringement on common sense.

Right from the beginning, and up to the end of the letter, Mrs. Woodward seems to indulge in imperative considerations and undisguised adversity to Arabic programme. As such, the writer of the letter refers, quite improperly, to Channel 2 of Jordan Television (JTV) as the "Foreign Channel" though to my knowledge, JTV runs two channels, namely JTV 1 and JTV 2 only. By labelling JTV 1 as the Arabic Channel and JTV 2 as Foreign Channel, Mrs. Woodward adopts an obtuse point of view, disregarding completely the impact of Arab sensibility and spiritual structure on any cultural event taking place in Jordan.

Mrs. Woodward jumps to conclusions and disputable generalisations, which are bound to collapse at any confrontation with the Jordanian public opinion. Although, I totally agree with Mrs. Woodward that the English subtitling of the series "End of a Brave Man" was far below any conceivable standards and frequent spelling mistakes ruined it, most JTV viewers liked and watched the series passionately when it was aired during Ramadan. If Mrs. Woodward and her friends have a different opinion, they are most welcome to voice it. Yet it would have been so much more considerate to avoid the definite derogatory tone of the comments and leave, eventually, room for other opinions. Feasting on rhetoric and irony, Mrs. Woodward draws conclusions and makes all sorts of assumptions which lack solid ground. If Mrs. Woodward thought for a moment that out of the total JTV viewers more than two thirds are Arabs, she might have been somewhere closer to reality. Again Mrs. Woodward claims that nobody she knows used to watch the series. But by checking public opinion at random, one finds out that the series under discussion was one of the favourite items of the JTV programme during Ramadan. Moreover many JTV viewers videotaped the entire series.

What Mrs. Woodward seems to have failed to understand was that the majority of JTV viewers did not depend on the poor, wrongly spelled English subtitles and found the series most interesting and rewarding. However modest an attempt the series gave a majority of JTV viewers a sense of pride in the achievements of a young Jordanian film crew.

If Mrs. Woodward has been offended by the Arabic series "End of a Brave Man," I am most puzzled to find out that prior to JTV's uninspired decision to air some Arabic programmes, the "JTV foreign channel" was, in the view of the writer, of very high quality. It is indeed a bewilderment to learn that many of the soaps or amateurish movies which so often spoil one's Thursday or Saturday evenings are actually of high quality.

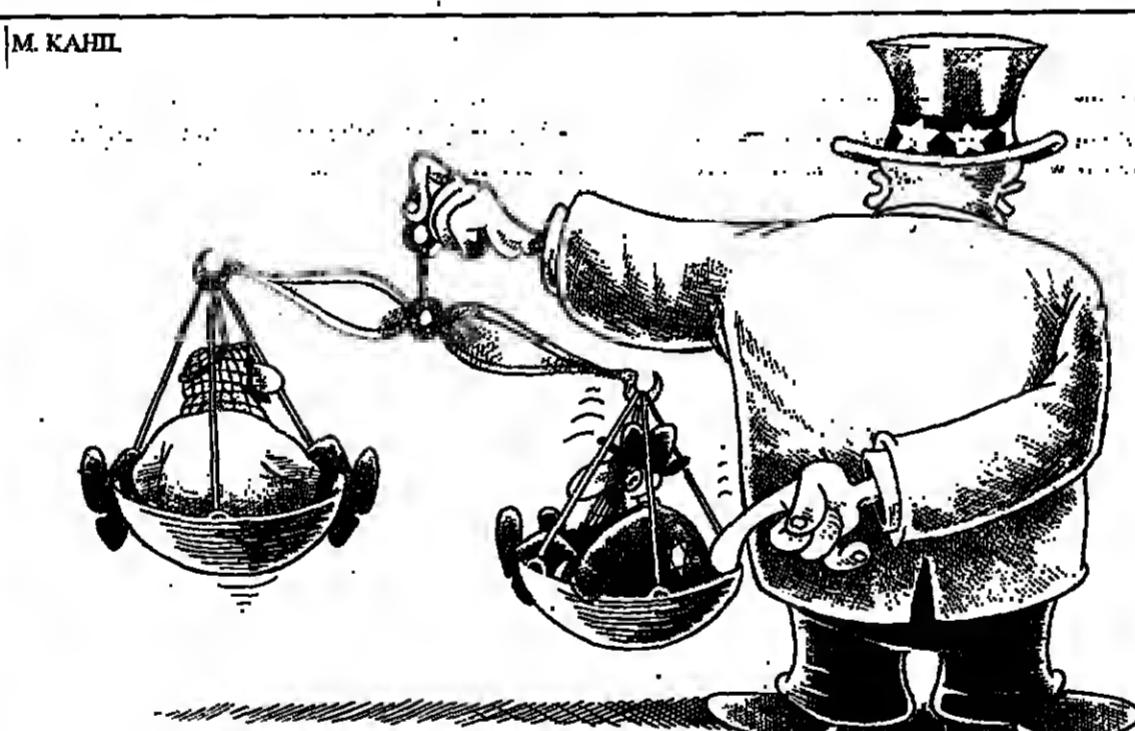
Interestingly enough, the local community seems to be less rebellious about the absence of Arabic subtitles on various programmes.

Thanks to Mrs. Woodward's carefully thought comments only, a succession of utterly inconsiderate judgments galore: an Arabic series cannot be but uninteresting; most foreigners who live in Jordan are women married to Jordanians (quite a large range like expatriates, diplomats and U.N. missions are simply left out); women dislike sports and, last but not least, so many of the foreigners in Jordan like football. In spite of all this, and to much of Mrs. Woodward's dismay JTV has decided to air two weeks of African football.

A few things should be clarified: Football remains one of the most popular sports worldwide. Lately, it has become very popular with ladies as well; TV crews do not discriminate between sexes when programmes are aired and it is wise to; it is not accidental that the U.S. has been selected as the next venue for the coming World Football Championship, which seems football has become popular with Americans as well and what is most important, Mrs. Woodward fails to note the football games aired by JTV are part of the African Championship in which some Arab countries were participating. So, the interest of Jordanian TV viewers in "two weeks of African football" is legitimate.

In the end, I shall like to express my sincere belief that suggestions and comments on issues of interest to the public will be helpful and enlightening indeed, as long as they represent a neutral and balanced point of view that are not implacable and short-sighted judgments. However, not many JTV viewers are going to blame JTV for not airing an Arabic series, or football games, every now and then. Neither do many believe that JTV 2 is on the decline due to introducing Arabic programmes, consequently running the danger of being renamed the Arabic channel.

Rodica G. M.



## Despite civil war talk, S. Africa is no Bosnia

By Kurt Schork  
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — Predictions that a rising tide of violence in South Africa could spill into civil war, drenching the country in a Bosnia-like bloodbath, ignore deep differences between two nations where political change has meant sudden death for many innocents.

South Africa's first all-race elections, scheduled for April 26-28, will end 300 years of white minority domination.

The nightmare scenario here has always been an apocalyptic confrontation between whites reluctant to surrender their privilege and blacks impatient with the slow pace of change. That slowdown now appears unlikely.

Polls show a majority of whites back elections expected to replace President F.W. de Klerk with Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress (ANC).

Mr. Mandela and Mr. de Klerk, together, have charted course for a unitary, multi-racial South Africa, sailing against a global gale of ethnic separation that has shattered former nation-states like Yugoslavia.

Most recent victims of political violence in South Africa are blacks caught up in the bitter 10-year rivalry between Mr. Mandela's ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party

(IFP), of Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

About 120 people died in a recent week of political violence in KwaZulu and the surrounding province of Natal, home for about eight million South Africans, 20 per cent of the population.

Horrible as the deaths were, there is no comparison between South Africa's political murders, people picked off in ones and twos by band guns and hatchets, and the wholesale slaughter still going on in Bosnia. Heavy artillery kills far more efficiently than bullets or blades.

The Bosnian capital of Sarajevo, population 380,000, saw more than 550 people killed in a single week of siege warfare in August 1992. Over the past two years, 10,000 residents of that city have been killed and 50,000 wounded.

The independent Human Rights Commission counts 9,000 South Africans killed between the start of 1992 and election eve this year out of a population of almost 40 million.

Mr. Buthelezi and the IFP are boycotting the April elections because South Africa's interim constitution does not provide enough autonomy for Zulus or their

tanks and field artillery. South African separatists have gained no such advantage. Although some senior officials covertly support separatist forces, the bulk of the government and the army now seem firmly committed to the success of national elections and a strong central government.

The South African Defense Force (SADF) has intervened decisively against separatists in Bophuthatswana and kwaZulu in recent weeks. Both Mr. de Klerk and Mr. Mandela vow elections will proceed regardless of Mr. Buthelezi and the white right.

Zulus wield "cultural weapons" like spears and clubs at political demonstrations the same way Bosnian Serbs brandish Orbitabedz. They cross over their battlefield as proud symbols of their identity and signs of militant opposition to threatening political order.

It was Mr. de Klerk who released Mr. Mandela from prison after 27 years and broke the shackles of apartheid, giving South African blacks hope for a peaceful road to freedom. Since then Mr. Mandela has counselled patience and reconciliation to his followers.

Painful as their pas de deux has been, Mr. Mandela and Mr. de Klerk, who shared the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize, have moved South Africa to within sight of multi-racial, democratic nationhood.

That Bosnia produced no such statesmen explains much of its tragedy. Unless the SADF suddenly shifts allegiance, Mr. Mandela will soon preside over the new South Africa, even as Bosnia remains a heart of darkness in Europe.

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## Peace process in crisis — King

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process launched in Madrid in October 1991, "will realise how dangerous and difficult it is ... that it is difficult for all those concerned."

"We have to have the vision, we have to have the determination (and) we've got to have the help to move beyond this point, and on clearly defined lines towards a comprehensive settlement and towards resolving this problem once and for all; out on one track alone, but on all tracks as soon as possible," the King added.

"We are at a very critical moment now," said the King. "Many of the hopes and aspirations of so many on either side of the divide were raised at a certain point are now passing through a critical phase of wondering where it is leading to," the King said.

"I hope that we will see renewed efforts, serious and determined ... (and) all will react to save the peace process from what will be a disaster that is looming ahead. I hope that the United States of America and our friends in the world and certainly those immediately involved will realise that we are passing through a very difficult moment right now."

"It is worth looking into alternatives because if this fails, then what is there except

disaster for all?" said the King.

President Klestil announced at the press conference that his country would host a conference of the three major monotheistic religions — Islam, Christianity and Judaism — by the end of this year.

"Europe, I am sure, will take its share because peace and security in the Middle East means peace and security for Europe; tension in the region means tension for Europe. There is an absolute principal interest."

The King hosted a state dinner in honour of President Klestil later Monday.

In speeches at the dinner, both leaders praised Austrian-Jordanian relations and expressed hope that Vienna-Amman cooperation would continue to grow.

The King reaffirmed his commitment to democracy and said Jordan's drive in this direction "is a true embodiment of our firm adherence to the values of freedom, equality and regard for human rights."

He said Jordan was committed to achieving a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on the "application of resolutions based on international legitimacy."

The King said real peace could not be attained "in the absence of development and a decent standard of living."

"The people of our region

look to the international community — and especially the countries of Europe — to play a role in promoting economic development as a major cornerstone for a real and lasting peace," the King said.

To his speech, President Klestil said Austrians held the King in high esteem and attach special importance to their country's relations with Jordan. "Despite their geographical distance, both our countries have some remarkable features in common," he said. "Both are medium size and are located in sensitive regions prone to the influence of outside powers.

"Therefore, both our countries have always advocated negotiations and compromise as means to resolving conflicts, and cooperation and moderation as means to avoid them," he said.

Following are major excerpts from Dr. Klestil's address:

"Austria is proud of its historical ties with the Arab and the Islamic world. My country was the first in Europe to recognise Islam as an official religion. To this very day, we are promoting the religious dialogue. At present, there are almost a quarter of a million Muslims living in Austria, among them about 70,000 refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina. Next December, Austria will host a triologue conference on 'The Europe of

Religions,' bringing together representatives of Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

"It is against this background that Austria follows very closely events in the Middle East and takes an active part in contributing to a just and durable peace in the region. In the past, Austrian statesmen have played important roles in that regard. Let me just mention the names of Mr. Bruno Kreisky or Mr. Kurt Waldheim. As president of Austria I feel fully committed to their noble cause — knowing quite well that peace in the Middle East is also a prerequisite for peace in the world and the world.

"Today, Austria participates in the peace process on the multilateral level seeking solutions to the regional problems of water, economic development, refugees and the environment. We will also continue and intensify our cooperation with the Arab World and our Jordanian friends in particular by strengthening economic ties, promoting industrial development and examining a wide range of possibilities for further cooperation in areas like science and culture.

"One of the most promising fields is tourism where Austria possesses special expertise and where Jordan has a great potential which could be exploited to the benefit of the country."

alive because there were not enough doctors to check whether they were actually dead. Some were unconscious, others, their throats cut, were unable to speak.

The army said rampaging troops, from the Hutu tribe, had been called back to barracks and said it supported the interim government's efforts to regain control of the situation.

In Kigali, Eric Bertin, a coordinator for the French humanitarian group Doctors Without Borders, said patients at the central hospital who he and colleagues had treated Saturday were killed that night by soldiers.

He estimated that at least 100 people were murdered, many in beds in tents set up on the city's outskirts.

"They are also killing refugees in the town hall," he said.

Residents in Kigali reported the city relatively calm overnight on Sunday. But they awoke to the sound of fighting near the international airport on the city's outskirts.

"Talk of a ceasefire is absolute rubbish, it's complete mayhem here," said one resident.

One of the rebels' top commanders said the rebels were now determined to end the "government of killers" and appealed to army units not involved in the ethnic slaughter to desert.

The interim government was announced a few days after the slaying of President Juvenal Habyarimana, but was immediately rejected by the rebels.

Habyarimana's death in a rocket attack on a plane returning from a regional peace conference reignited age-old strife between the Hutus and the minority Tutsi tribe.

About 250 of the 900 Belgians living in Kigali had been evacuated by Monday afternoon. The first 89 arrived in Brussels early Monday.

Belgian Defence Minister Leo Delcroix said the 900 Belgians in Kigali could be evacuated within four days, but it could take 10 days or longer to evacuate the 600 Belgians living outside the capital.

Many victims were buried

one by one in mass graves, he said.

President Clinton said Saturday in Washington that "the last of the convoys containing all Americans who wish to leave has either passed into Burundi or is about to pass into Burundi." About 330 U.S. Marines were in Burundi to aid fleeing Americans. About 250 Americans, mostly missionaries and aid workers, were in Paris.

By Monday evening, 620 French nationals had left Rwanda with a "very reduced number," reported, said French foreign ministry spokesman Richard Duque in Paris.

French troops were in control of the Kigali airport. A dozen cars were parked outside the airport, left by people who fled the country.

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## PLO resigned to delay in agreement

(Continued from page 1)

because it would have provided credibility to the rest of the agreement."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said the PLO would be to blame if both sides did not meet the target date for full implementation of the Gaza-Jericho accord.

"We didn't suspend the agreement in the wake of Palestinian terrorism against us. He (Arafat) suspended the negotiations after the massacre in Hebron and therefore the responsibility for the loss of time is not on us," Mr. Rabin told Israel Radio.

Calling the Afula car-bomb attack an "abominable crime," Mr. Rabin emphasised it would not force Israel to suspend peace talks despite right-wing Israeli protests.

The PLO condemned the Afula attack but Mr. Rabin, who immediately and vehemently had condemned the Hebron massacre, criticised Mr. Arafat for not personally commanding.

"I think it was a serious mistake on Arafat's part that he did not condemn it. (But) his behaviour is not a criterion for the behaviour of the government of Israel and therefore I do not think the right way is stopping negotiations."

Mr. Rabin said he did not believe the closure of the territories — which prevents about 60,000 Palestinians from coming to work in Israel — would

harm negotiations in Cairo.

"I think we have the right to worry about our security," Mr. Rabin said when asked about the closure.

Economic deal next week

In Paris, Israel and the PLO said they expect to conclude an agreement on economic relations between Israel and the future self-governing Palestinian territories next week.

Israeli Finance Minister Abraham Shohat and PLO Economics chief Ahmad Qouriea said in a joint statement they had made positive progress in the latest round of economic talks in Paris, due to end early on Tuesday.

The chairman added that even though there are some significant differences to be resolved, they believe that the next meeting will take place next week in Paris will be the concluding round," the statement said.

It said the two delegations were "in the stage of finalising an agreement" on most of the issues covered by the talks, including agriculture, labour, industry, banking, insurance, direct and indirect taxes and trade relations.

Delegates said the main differences were over Palestinian demands to set lower customs duties than Israel for key imports, including basic foods, construction materials and machinery.

## NATO bombs Bosnian Serbs again

(Continued from page 1)

The Gorazde raid was the first time NATO had used air power on Serb forces attacking a U.N. "safe area" in Bosnia.

The threat of air strikes forces the Serbs to withdraw their siege guns from Sarajevo in February and eight days later NATO jets shot down four Serb warplanes violating the no-fly zone over Bosnia.

Bosnian Serbs accused NATO of hitting civilian targets around Gorazde and sharply protested the first NATO attack, insisting U.N. personnel in Gorazde were not threatened.

"There was no justification for the use of NATO air power," said a statement carried by Tanjug. "By this act, the United Nations have sided against the Serbs."

The Serb chief of staff, General Manojlo Milovanovic, had told the U.N. on Sunday his forces would stop shelling Gorazde. But the shelling continued unabated and U.N. personnel remained in danger, United Nations officers said.

On Monday, Bosnian Serb authorities blocked traffic in and out of Sarajevo at Serb-controlled checkpoints around Sarajevo, the Bosnian Serb SRNA news agency reported.

U.N. officials confirmed that Serbs were limiting access at several checkpoints and limiting movement for United Nations military observers.

Russia, Serbia's traditional ally, reacted angrily to NATO's weekend airstrike on Bosnian Serb forces and demanded to be consulted in the future.

President Boris Yeltsin told reporters he had complained personally to President Clinton on Monday that the United States had not consulted Moscow before Sunday's attack.

But Mr. Yeltsin, speaking at Moscow airport on his way to Spain, did not specifically comment. Russia or oppose this or any other U.N. personnel in Gorazde were not threatened.

"There was no justification for the use of NATO air power," said a statement carried by Tanjug. "By this act, the United Nations have sided against the Serbs."

In Geneva, Dr. Ghalib denied anti-Serb sentiments.

The safe areas designated by the United Nations must remain safe areas," he said. "It was for this reason and not as an attack on any one party" that the NATO air power was summoned.

## Fierce fighting rages in Rwanda

(Continued from page 1)

take over and restore order in the chaotic city.

"Those two battalions on the outskirts are just a vanguard of a much larger force," a Rwanda Patriotic Front commander, Wilson Rotayisire, told Reuters.

He added that the front had taken over significant amounts of territory since fighting broke out last week.

"They have already killed

Reports said tribal bloodletting sparked by last Wednesday's killing of the president had also spread to the countryside, where rebels had re-launched a three-year civil war.

Spanish missionary nuns in the western Rwandan town of Kibuye said the town's hospital had been attacked and gangs were "killing all over the place."

The King said real peace could not be attained "in the absence of development and a decent standard of living."

"The people of our region

alive because there were not enough doctors to check whether they were actually dead. Some were unconscious, others, their throats cut, were unable to speak.

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"Talk of a ceasefire is absolute rubbish, it's complete mayhem here," said one resident.

One of the rebels' top commanders said the rebels were now determined to end the "government of killers" and appealed to army units not involved in the ethnic slaughter to desert.

The killing brought to at least 821 the number of Palestinians killed by fellow Arabs since the December 1987 start of the uprising. Most slain were accused of being informers, but the charge is often used to cover personal disputes.

The Israel supreme court on Monday agreed to review the army's open-fire orders in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, responding to an appeal by a reserve soldier who asked the regulations be tightened.

Reserve soldier Yoav Hess asked that the rules be tightened so soldiers may only shoot if their lives are in immediate danger. Under existing regulations, troops can open fire without warning at any armed Palestinians, even if there is no direct threat.

The three-two decision came two years after the high court refused to bear a similar appeal, saying the issue was not within its jurisdiction. The court cited Mr. Hess' personal stake in the case as a reserves soldier in its decision to hear the case.

The army denied such a blanket ban existed.

Civil rights attorney Avigdor Feldman welcomed the court's decision. "I'm glad that the supreme court... has ordered an investigation of the legality of the orders, an issue that has become very timely since the hearings of the commission of inquiry," Mr. Feldman told Israel Radio.

## Export control goes national in post-cold war era

THE HAGUE (R) — Strategic export controls have become a largely national responsibility following the dissolution of Cocom, the cold-war body set up to prevent the Communist Bloc from acquiring advanced military technology.

Frans Engering, the senior Dutch government official who chaired talks on winding up Cocom, said a new organisation to be set by October would leave national governments to take the final decision on exports of sophisticated military goods.

"The new system is based on national discretion... each country will have the authority and sovereignty to take the final decision," he told Reuters in an interview at the weekend.

Despite this, Mr. Engering said there was a firm commitment from the various countries involved to make the new

regime work and prevent strategic goods falling into the wrong hands. "I believe it can be an effective system," he said.

Cocom's final meeting at a castle near The Hague last month agreed to set up a broader-based and more flexible apparatus to replace Cocom's system of strict multilateral export curbs.

In addition to the 17 Cocom members — all 16 NATO countries, except Iceland, plus Australia and Japan — the new arrangement will also include Austria, Finland, Ireland, New Zealand, Sweden and Switzerland.

Mr. Engering held talks in Moscow last week about Russia joining the new organisation as a founder member and has been given a mandate to open talks with China, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia about joining

at later stage. New members will have to demonstrate that they have an adequate export control system and the means to enforce it.

The decision to scrap Cocom, the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls, goes back to last year's Vancouver summit between presidents Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin.

Cocom had become an anachronism and was preventing the former Warsaw Pact countries from acquiring the technology they need to build successful market economies.

"But we also recognise that there are new threats and new problems in the world... individual countries which we do not trust," Mr. Engering said.

In contrast to Cocom, the still unnamed successor organisation will not maintain a permanent blacklist of countries involved in the new

tries which are ineligible to receive weapons or high-technology goods with potential military applications.

"There is no published list of bad guys. We have some countries in mind, but it will change from time to time," Mr. Engering said, declining to identify individual countries.

U.S. officials have had no qualms however in naming Iran, Iraq, Libya and North Korea as countries likely to be affected by strategic export restrictions under the new regime.

Member countries will cooperate in drawing up lists of restricted goods and technologies, but these will be much shorter than the list used by Cocom.

Until the new arrangements are in place, countries are expected to control strategic exports on the basis of their own national legislation.

Mr. Engering said the Cocom regime had been a far-reaching one with participating countries surrendering some sovereignty.

"Cocom was a system of consensus... everybody had a veto, so in fact you had handed over some sovereignty once you were inside the system."

To a large extent the success of the new, looser arrangements will depend on the political will of participating countries to make them work.

Countries issuing an export licence against the advance of the group's other members could in theory be expelled and face trade restrictions themselves, Mr. Engering said.

In time Cocom's successor could cooperate or even merge with other international bodies set up to prevent arms proliferation, but this was not on the agenda for the time being, he added.



SHENZHEN: China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping features on a billboard in Shenzhen overlooking a skyline of a major metropolis and the Great Wall as a brand new German luxury

car drives by in this thriving southern Chinese special economic zone. Text translates as: 'Over the next 100 years the basic principles of communism will remain in force' (AFP photo)

## Russia may get Sakhalin oil deal bonanza soon

MOSCOW (R) — A Western oil consortium may push ahead soon with a multi-billion-dollar offshore project near the far eastern island of Sakhalin, Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuri Shafranik has said.

"This is a huge project, \$10 billion of investment... the main work has been done, not just a protocol, but virtually all agreements have been signed," he told a news conference. "The ball is now in the court of the Western firms."

A senior official at the Russian state oil producers' group Rosneft said last month that a protocol had been drafted and was ready for signing, but government approval was still required.

The Sakhalin-2 project, delayed for months by political and economic turmoil in Russia and legislative uncertainty, involves a consortium known as MMMSM — Marathon Oil Co., McDermott International Inc., Mitsui Co. Ltd., Mitsubishi Corp and Royal Dutch/Shell Group.

Mr. Shafranik compared the bell-weather deal to a contract signed last year between U.S.-based Chevron Corp and Kazakhstan to develop the huge Tengiz oilfield near the Caspian Sea.

"In terms of political importance, it is about the same as the Tengiz deal," he said. Many Western oil companies have refrained from investing big sums in Russia, saying investment conditions were better in Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan.

The deposits on offer under Sakhalin-2, the Piltinsk-Astokhsk and Lansk offshore fields, have possible reserves of about 50 million tonnes of oil, 30 million tonnes of gas condensate and 300 billion cubic metres of natural gas.

This would compare with some of the biggest North Sea deposits and give Russia's cash-starved oil and gas industry a major shot in the arm.

Russian crude oil output has been declining steadily since 1988. Officials have forecast this year's output at about 330 million tonnes, down from 354 million in 1993.

Mr. Shafranik said it was now up to the Sakhalin-2 consortium to decide when a final contract should be signed and when work should begin.

The agreement clears the way for the Western partners to say if they will begin work in a month or not," he said.

The minister outlined the terms of the 25-year production-sharing deal, under

which Russia would receive more than 50 per cent of profits.

The bonus to be paid to Russia upon signing of the contract was \$50 million, while \$100 million would go to a social development fund for Sakhalin and about \$160 million to Russian firms that took part in geological work.

"Besides, 70 per cent of all orders and work required under the agreement will remain on the Russian side," he said, adding that converted former Soviet defence sector firms would participate.

Mr. Shafranik said there has also been major progress in another Sakhalin project, Sakhalin-1, which has been delayed for years by differences over contract terms.

"We hope that in a very short time, perhaps a month or two, this will also be decided," he said.

Sakhalin-1 involves Japan's Sakhalin Oil Development Company (SODECO) and the U.S. group Exxon Corp.

A tender for another development project, Sakhalin-3, was won late last year by Exxon and a consortium of Mobil Oil and Texaco and a Sakhalin-4 tender is expected soon.

## UAE, Pakistan pact may affect BCCI case

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE), which wants the Pakistani founder of the failed BCCI bank to stand trial in Abu Dhabi, will discuss terms for a general extradition treaty with Pakistan Tuesday.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Assef Ahmad Ali arrived in the UAE Monday. The proposed treaty is one of 20 items on his agenda for two days of talks with UAE officials.

Mansour Alam, Pakistan's ambassador to the UAE, said it was not clear what effect the treaty would have on the trial in Abu Dhabi criminal court of 13 former Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) officials.

"We will discuss everything under the sky. The extradition treaty will be discussed too," he said.

The question of signing the extradition treaty is not with particular reference to BCCI. It may cover BCCI when it is finalised. It will cover all cases of crimes committed within the UAE and Pakistan," he added.

In January, the UAE issued two summonses for Agha Hassan Abedi, BCCI founder living in Pakistan, to face trial in Abu Dhabi for his alleged role in the world's biggest bank failure.

They have pleaded not guilty to charges including dissipating funds, forging documents and concealing the bank's deficits.

## Arab stock markets urge lifting capital outflows

AMMAN (R) — Arab bankers and stock market officials said Monday improving the region's investment climate and freeing capital flows would modernise markets.

"There is a need to create the right investment climate by issuing regulatory laws for the stock exchanges and especially those which relate to investment companies taxes, foreign currency," said a final resolution issued at the end of a three-day conference on Arab stock markets.

Participants looked into ways to develop their stock markets to stimulate investments in countries embarking on free market reforms.

"No doubt one of the main obstacles is laws on foreign currency controls which have stood in the way of developing Arab stock markets because stock markets mean the free-

dom of movement of capital,"

Adnan Hindi, the secretary general of the Union of Arab Banks, one of the conference organisers, told Reuters.

Bahrain's stock exchange head Fawzi Bahzad said the right investment climate was needed to allow free flow of capital, adding that "most Arab foreign investment laws while opening some doors closed others and so real investment does not come."

The conference noted that large-scale foreign inflows into the small, undercapitalised markets of the Arab World could only lead to unnatural price hikes.

Many of the emerging Arab stockmarkets bar non-citizens from investing while others put restrictions on foreign ownership and discourage it through foreign currency controls on capital outflows.

JORDAN TIMES TEL. 667171

## U.S. firms still waiting for a Vietnam boom

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — U.S. airlines eager for business in Vietnam are finding that politics still hampers them two months after the end of the 19-year American economic embargo.

The United States lifted sanctions on Feb. 3, but it has yet to establish diplomatic relations with its one-time enemy. Governments generally must have normal relations before signing an air services agreement, which allows for regularly scheduled passenger flights between two nations.

Delta, United, Northwest and Continental are taking intermediate steps to normal service, such as coordinating schedules and ticket sales with Vietnam Airlines, the state-owned Vietnamese flag carrier. They wait, meanwhile, for diplomatic ties to improve.

Nor has the end of sanctions led to quick sales for Boeing, the U.S. aircraft maker.

Robert Laird, Boeing's regional sales director, has made 14 trips to Hanoi in the last two years, positioning his company for a part in Vietnam Airlines'

plan to spend an estimated \$1 billion by the year 2000 to expand its fleet.

"Vietnam is an untapped aviation market with enormous potential, so there are a lot of people beating the doors down to talk with them," Mr. Laird said here recently.

Boeing foresees potential sales in Vietnam of \$3 billion to \$5 billion — 60 to 80 airplanes — over the next 10 to 15 years, Mr. Laird said. Boeing is competing mainly with Europe's Airbus Industrie consortium and the U.S. company McDonnell Douglas.

Mr. Laird said he hopes the Vietnamese will choose a supplier sometime this year, but acknowledged that now was the time to be patient.

Delta Airlines, making up for lost time since the embargo ended, signed a letter of intent last month with Vietnam Airlines to cooperate on scheduling and marketing. It expects to sign a formal interline agreement later this year, said Delta spokesman Bill Berry.

United Airlines, which

signed an agreement with Vietnam Airlines in February 1993, has applied for permission from the U.S. Department of Transportation to fly from Los Angeles to Ho Chi Minh City. Northwest Airlines has asked for approval to fly there from Detroit, and Continental Airlines wants to fly to Vietnam by way of Guam.

The United States has not said when full diplomatic relations are expected. But Vietnam Airlines is ready to start negotiating for an air services agreement at any time, said Nguyen Duc Vinh, the company's deputy director general.

At stake is an expected surge in air travel to Vietnam by businessmen, war veterans, tourists, and some of about one million Vietnamese-Americans. Dao Manh Nhuong, deputy director general of Vietnam's Civil Aviation Administration, estimates that the United States could account for up to 30 per cent of the people flying to Vietnam by 1995.

Vietnam Airlines hopes to

fly its own jets to the United States as early as this year if diplomatic conditions permit, Mr. Nhuong said. To do so, it must first upgrade its fleet.

The company plans to buy between 30 and 40 new aircraft by the end of the century in its quest to become a regional airline.

"In the next 10 to 15 years, they could easily become the size of a Thai Airways, a Cathay Pacific, or a Singapore Airlines," said Boeing's Mr. Laird.

Vietnam Airlines now owns 18 planes, 16 of which are aging and inefficient Soviet built Tupolevs, Ilyushins and Yakovlevs. It also leases two Boeing 767s and five Airbus A320s with foreign pilots and crews for its international flights.

Few of the airline's own pilots are trained to fly non-Soviet aircraft, but Mr. Laird said no problem in this.

"The pilots are excellent," he said. "I would say the Tupolevs are probably more difficult to fly than most Western equipment."

United Airlines' Mr. Berry

**Turino**  
Club Restaurant  
Ladies Lunch & Exotic Dinner  
  
The Liberty Of  
The Flame To Burn!  
Sweitiyeh \$16690

**JUMBLE**  
THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME  
by Herl Arnold and Mike Argyle  
  
Uncramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.  
  
**NIYKK**  
N.Y. Native State Services Inc.  
© 1994  
**WENIT**  
W.E.N.I.T.  
**JELOTS**  
J.E.L.O.T.S.  
**LOAPER**  
L.O.A.P.E.R.  
  
Here's how Shakespeare would have handled this  
  
  
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.  
  
Answer: HE **LOAPER** THE "LOAPER" **LOAPER**  
Yesterday's Jumbles: VIRUS DERBY BUTANE NUTRIA  
Answer: Another name for an altar — A RITE SITE

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY APRIL 12, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You can solve a difficult problem when you are fresh and thinking clearly in the day. Take constructive steps to overcome obstacles in the path of your progress. Seek harmony with close ties.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Suggestions from higher-ups can prove helpful in your career activities. Sidestep one who wants to make trouble for you in any activity.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 19)

You can do most sensibly with associates and strengthen the relationship. Handle an important business matter wisely and you will be more appreciated.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Find out what associates expect of you and do your best to please them. Don't neglect important correspondence to associates and loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be more supportive of loyal associates and establish goodwill between you. Listen to what an adviser has to say about a new project.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

Find more practical methods of operating early in the day and accomplish more. Cooperate more with fellow associates and you get that project completed.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Plan early for recreations later in the day. A time when you can make an important decision and get desired results.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21)

Complete unfinished tasks in a tactful manner and then make new plans for the future. Be more willing to listen to the suggestions of others.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Plan to be with loved one more and add to present mutual happiness. Make sure your busi-

ness affairs are in good order and you will succeed.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 22) Come to a better understanding with family ties and have greater rapport in the future. Stop being so critical of others and you will be more appreciated.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Go after long-time aims and gain them easily now. Make new associates of worth and the future becomes brighter to you for the days ahead.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be more active in the business world and improve your position in life. Show more loyalty to family members and there will be happiness.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Communicating with persons you want to be associated with in the future is wise. Go to the right sources for the data you need on a current project.

**THE Daily Crossword** by Frank R. Jackson

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14	15	16	17</td									



## South African unrest death toll reaches 552 in March

JOHANNESBURG (R) — At least 552 people were killed in racial violence in South Africa during March, thedog Human Rights Commission (HRC) said Monday.

The commission said the toll was more than double 245 deaths recorded in February and reversed a seven-month long downward trend in racial killings ahead of the March 26 first all-race elections.

It said 361 of the killings in March took place in the KwaZulu-Natal province, where a state of emergency was declared on March 31 to safeguard the elections which are being boycotted by Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party.

The HRC said the KwaZulu-Natal figures were "the most alarming element of this year's figure" because it was the only region in which high

levels of violence were still apparent.

Despite the deployment of thousands of extra troops, at least 147 people have been killed in the region since the emergency declaration.

The commission said it had recorded 4,139 deaths in political unrest since July last year, arriving Tuesday morning.

Lord Carrington himself was not available for comment and no details of his flight were immediately available.

In Johannesburg, coordinators said foreign mediators including Lord Carrington and former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger would arrive Tuesday to try to break the constitutional impasse between Nelson Mandela's African National Congress and Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party.

Meanwhile, Britain's Lord Carrington will arrive in South Africa Tuesday to take part in a foreign mediation mission to try to break a constitutional impasse between rival black groups, officials said Monday.

A U.K. Foreign Office spokesman said Lord Carrington

## Japan coalition squabble continues

YOKOHAMA (R) — Japan's ruling coalition, locked in bitter debate over choosing a successor to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, came close to collapse Monday after two rounds of talks ended in failure.

Negotiators representing the three parties and one trade group making up the coalition averted an immediate breakdown but agreed on little else for an end-of-week line.

The negotiations were due to begin Monday but no end of the crisis was in sight.

Meanwhile, Mr. Hosokawa had convened a government panel to redraw Japan's fiscal map. The timing of the exercise will probably determine the date of the next general election.

The head of the seven-member panel of academics and legal experts promised to finish the job by early October. Political analysts said this could be the world's second economic power to take six more months of stop-

Menem  
favours  
factory;  
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nd term

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Yeltsin starts state visit to Spain

MADRID (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived in Madrid Monday at the start of a three-day state visit to Spain. Spanish officials hope the visit, Mr. Yeltsin's first to the West since he suppressed an armed revolt last October, will put new life into cordial but rather lacklustre relations between the two countries. Western eyes will be closely watching how Mr. Yeltsin performs on the visit in view of recurring doubts about his health.

### 12 Vietnamese massacred in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (R) — At least 12 ethnic Vietnamese were killed and 23 injured in a weekend massacre southeast of Phnom Penh, a senior Cambodian police commander said Monday. It is the worst killing of ethnic Vietnamese since last May's U.N.-organised elections. A group of unidentified gunmen threw grenades and opened fire on Vietnamese people, killing 12 and wounding 23 including children, said Brigadier-General Lam Buntha. He said the massacre took place Saturday at Treuy Slar village in the Saang district of Kandal province. A United Nations human rights official told Reuters 13 were killed.

### Greek leftists claim attacks in Athens

ATHENS (R) — Leftist guerrillas attacked Athens offices housing American and Dutch insurance companies Monday, using a rocket-grenade and a time-bomb, police said. They said the Nov. 17 Group claimed responsibility for the attacks, which caused damage but no casualties, in an anonymous telephone call to an Athens radio station. They said the rocket-grenade used against the office of the Alico American Life Insurance Company in the northern suburb of Maroussi had been stolen by Nov. 17 from a Greek army depot in Larissa. The grenade was fired from a make-shift launcher placed on the opposite side of the street. The offices of the Dutch National Netherlanden Insurance Company, in a commercial building about 100 metres from Alico, were wrecked when the time-bomb exploded outside the third-floor door. Earlier, police said a rocket was used in the attack on the Dutch company.

### 4 injured in Belfast bomb attacks

BELFAST (R) — Four people were injured in bomb attacks Sunday night on two houses in the Northern Ireland capital Belfast, police said. The British Broadcasting Corporation reported that an outlawed Protestant guerrilla group, the Ulster Freedom Fighters, had claimed responsibility for one of the attacks. Britain failed to persuade the IRA to extend a short truce last week, but said it would try to reconcile Northern Ireland's Protestants and Catholics even without the hardline Irish nationalists. The Irish Republican Army (IRA) showed it was back in business with four attacks on security forces in the British province hours after its Wednesday-to-Friday ceasefire ended. No one was hurt but sources close to the IRA, whose 25-year insurrection has failed to reunite Ireland, warned far bigger attacks were likely to follow in coming weeks. Britain had dismissed the truce all along as a ploy to lure it into talks with the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein that would be hostage to the threat of renewed violence.

### U.K. troops ready to leave Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP) — Boots, jeeps, spent shells and assault craft — it's all got to go. China recovers Hong Kong soon, and the departing British army is holding garage sales of historic proportions. Chinese troops will march into Hong Kong in July 1997, so the British are packing, mothballing weapons, clearing barracks and preparing to leave. What they can't take with them is coming under the auctioneer's gavel. Unlike many other colonies Britain has left, Hong Kong is being sold without a shot. Britain and China agreed on the transfer of sovereignty in 1984.

With the exception of a leftist senator elected in 1992, no leftists had won in Buenos Aires for half a century. This is a 'no' to corruption," said Menem's reelection, and Front leader Carlos Menem told a television interview.

recent weeks, the government has seen itself sucked into another scandal after another. Some aides of Mr. Menem and top officials faced charges rarely upheld in court — of billion-dollar corruption and fraud.

Menem's mandate ends in the capital in a week. He wants to consolidate the market reforms that proved what he calls his "economic miracle" and turned centrist into one of the world's leading emerging markets.

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ton, a former British foreign secretary, had agreed to take part in a personal capacity but had the full support of the British government.

Lord Carrington's office confirmed he would depart for South Africa later Monday, arriving Tuesday morning.

Lord Carrington himself was not available for comment and no details of his flight were immediately available.

In Johannesburg, coordinators said foreign mediators including Lord Carrington and former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger would arrive Tuesday to try to break the constitutional impasse between Nelson Mandela's African National Congress and Mangosuthu Buthelezi — failed to agree on peace but agreed Friday to urgent talks on mediation terms.

Inkatha, which is boycotting the April 26-28 first all-race elections which the ANC is widely expected to win, is demanding virtual autonomy for the country's 8.5 million Zulus, whose loyalties are fiercely contested by the two main black parties.

The mediators are seen as the last hope in resolving the impasse between the ANC and the IFP.

"They (mediators) will be here as soon as the issue of their terms of reference have been finalised," said ANC spokesman Ronnie Mamope, adding this was unlikely before the end of the week.

A summit of the country's four key leaders — Mr. Mandela, President F.W. De Klerk, Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini and Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi — failed to agree on peace but agreed Friday to urgent talks on mediation terms.

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The foreign mediators were unlikely



# Sports

## Sanchez beats Sabatini in Amelia Island final

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida (AP) — Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, dedicating her victory to her stricken father, won the Bausch and Lomé Championships for the second straight year Sunday, beating Gabriela Sabatini 6-1, 6-4 to end a streak of 15 consecutive tournaments without a singles title.

"It's always great when you finally win," said Sanchez Vicario, the top-seeded player in the \$400,000 clay-court event. "I played my best, moved the ball well and dominated the match."

The title was the first of the year for Sanchez Vicario, who won four tournaments in 1993 but had gone 0-5 in finals since last May, including losses to Steffi Graf in this year's Australian Open and Virginia Slims of Florida.

Sanchez Vicario's father, Emilio, had a heart attack in Spain five days earlier.

"He's feeling much better, and I'm sure he'll be proud of me," Sanchez Vicario said. "He wanted me to stay and win. I did it for him."

Later Sunday, she and Larisa Neiand captured the doubles crown with a 6-2, 6-7, 6-4 victory over Amanda Coetzer and Ines Gorrahategui.

Sanchez Vicario beat Sabatini for the sixth time in their last seven meetings. They also met in the Amelia Island final last year.

Sanchez Vicario broke Sab-

tini in the first and third games for a 3-0 lead, then broke her again to close out the first set in 37 minutes. Sabatini committed only 18 unforced errors in Saturday's semifinal victory over Lindsay Davenport, but had 14 to Sanchez Vicario's four to the opening set.

Sabatini, a three-time winner of this tournament, settled down to win three straight games for a 3-1 lead in the second set. But she never gained control of the match.

Sanchez Vicario won the next three games, then finished off a fatigued Sabatini by holding serve for a 5-4 lead and breaking the tournament's fourth-seeded player for the match.

"She played a good match," said Sabatini, who has gone nearly two years — 33 consecutive tournaments — without winning a title. "She didn't give me much chance to do anything."

Still, Sabatini was encouraged by her performance to the tournament. She survived a three-set match against Amanda Coetzer, a tough clay court player, in the third round, then beat Mary Pierce and Davenport to reach the final.

"I look at the week as a great week," said Sabatini, adding she played with renewed confidence that should help her the best of the season. "I really had a good time out there."

## Russia extends deadline for mutinous players

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian Soccer Federation Monday said it would give rebel players a few extra days to decide whether they would end their mutiny and play for the national side in this summer's World Cup finals.

A week ago the federation gave the 14 rebels just five days to back down from their demands that coach Pavel Sadyrin be sacked for incompetence. But by the deadline late Friday only two of the foreign-based players had responded.

Federation Vice-President Nikita Simonyan said soccer chiefs had agreed to a request by several players that the deadline be extended to this Thursday to give them more time to decide.

"We consider that those who did not ask for more time are refusing to play," he said in a telephone interview.

"We won't lose — they will... They don't want to play and we don't need them. Time is passing and we can't wait any longer," he added, but declined to name those players who wanted the deadline extended.

The unprecedented five-month mutiny has seriously damaged Russia's chances in the first World Cup since the break-up of the Soviet Union in late 1991.

The one bright spot for Sadyrin was the decision by

most of the contingent from Russian champions Spartak Moscow to play for the national side.

But Spartak midfielder Valery Karpin, one of the most promising prospects, has made it clear he will not back down. Dynamo Moscow midfielder Igor Dobrovolsky, back in Russia after an unsuccessful spell abroad, will also not play.

"Karpin doesn't want to play for the national side and we are not upset by this in the slightest," Simonyan said.

"Eight Spartak players joined the squad. This is a good reinforcement. At the end of May we will make a final list of the 22 players," he said.

Dobrovolsky told Moscow television Sunday that those players refusing to play at the World Cup hoped to take part in the 1996 European championships in England. Sadyrin's contract runs out at the end of this year.

Those still holding out include Inter Milan midfielder and national captain Igor Shamilov, Manchester United winner Andrei Kanchelskis and strikers Igor Kolyvanov from Fogia and Sergei Kiryakov from Karlsruhe.

A replacement team of largely amateur players was lucky to escape with a 0-0 draw against Ireland last month. Further friendlies are planned against Turkey and Slovenia.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH  
©1993 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

#### IT'S ALL OR NOTHING

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
♦ A 10 9  
♦ 6 5  
♦ 7 5  
♦ A J 10 8 7 4

**WEST**  
♦ 5 4  
♦ K 10 4 3 2  
♦ Q 9 8  
♦ 3 2

**EAST**  
♦ A 3 7 2 2  
♦ Q 8 7  
♦ A 6 4 3  
♦ K 6

**SOUTH**  
♦ K Q J  
♦ A 8 7  
♦ K J 10 2  
♦ Q 9 5

The bidding:  
South: West: North: East:  
1 N.T. Pass: 3 NT: Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♦

There are some hands where declarer is faced with a pure guess, but few experts like to be in a situation over which they have no control.

Usually, they have some information on which to base their play. And sometimes there is really no guess at all.

If you object to North's raise to three no trump, that is time for you to raise your bridge primer. There

are few hands that will make five clubs and not three no trump, but

many more that will make three no trump and not five clubs.

West led a low heart and, since the major problem was to protect against a low club, declarer led a diamond to the first no round, winning the third. When the club finesse lost to the king, East found the devilish shift to a low diamond. What would you do?

To the uninitiated, it might seem it is a pure guess whether declarer should insert the ten in the first round for the king. However, the location of the queen is immaterial. Why?

If West gains the lead, the contract will be defeated — the defenders will collect four heart tricks, a club and at least one diamond. If West holds the lead, the king of diamonds is the only way to shut out that defense from cashing the established hearts. Therefore the only chance for the contract is to play the king, hoping that East has the ace.

By the way, we know the contract can be defeated if, after being allowed to hold the second heart, East shifts to a diamond. The defenders will get two hearts, two diamonds and the king of clubs. But if East is that good, offer your congratulations.

## National tennis team returns with disappointing results

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's national tennis team Tuesday returns home after taking part in the Davis Cup qualifying matches of the Asia/Oceania zone group 3 held in Qatar April 4-10.

Like the team's coach had predicted prior to their departure, the Kingdom's participation in this year's competition did not yield any change in their classification, nor does the team return with any victorious results.

Jordan's only win was 3-0 over Brunei. The team lost to Uzbekistan, Bahrain and Lebanon.

Uzbekistan topped the group standings and will be promoted to group 2 in 1995, while Bahrain, Lebanon, Jordan and Brunei will again remain in group 3 next season.

It was Jordan's sixth Davis Cup participation. The Kingdom's team had played in group 2 alongside more experienced Asian teams like Malaysia, Singapore, Iran and Pakistan for the past three years before being relegated to group 3 following their loss to Malaysia and Iran in the 1993 competition.

Until 1994, the national tennis team had mainly relied on the experienced Hani Al Ali, who had dominated the tennis scene for a decade. However, this year Ali and runner-up Imdad Abu Hamda missed the competition and the pressure was on the country's new young champion Laith Al Azzouni, who played his third Davis Cup. His teammates were Samir Rifa'i, Laith Al Kundi and Wadi' Kawa.

Following the qualifying round, national team coach Yousef Al Oreiabi had told the Jordan Times in a court-side interview that Azzouni, 16, and Rifa'i, 29, had been regularly practising at the Jordan Tennis Federation (JTF) courts three times a week for the past two months. However, Kawa and Kundi, both 19, have only recently joined the national team after their arrival from the U.S. where both attend university.

"Personally, I am not optimistic of the team scoring a satisfactory result this year. However, you have to understand that there has been a turning point in the country's tennis scene," Oreiabi had told the Jordan Times. "The JTF is now very keen on preparing a big number of young players. Just give them a couple of years and you'll see the result yourself," he asserted, pointing out that there were now at least eight young players who would someday well represent the Kingdom in such competitions.

Three promising Jordanian players are now preparing to compete in the qualifying matches for the NTT World Junior Tennis Championship, which will take place in Japan in August.

Ibrahim Al Hadid of the JTF Monday told the Jordan Times that this would be the first time Jordan plays in such a competition reserved for under-14 players only.

The Kingdom will be represented by Tharwat Al Qaisi, Ahmad Al Hadid and Jamal Olaby.

Jordan will be contesting qualification alongside 11 other Asian teams in the qualifying round which will be held in Thailand May 2-8.

The Kingdom's team will be competing alongside Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand.

Following the qualifying round, three teams will qualify for the world championship.

In addition to the top three Asian teams, 13 other nations will compete in the world championship: six from Europe, two from North America, three from South America, one from Africa in addition to Japan, the host nation.

## Krajicek wins Spanish title

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)

— Dutchman Richard Krajicek overcame Spaniard Carlos Costa by three sets to nil Sunday to win the \$900,000 Conde de Godo ATP-tennis tournament.

Playing his first singles event since taking five months off to battle tendinitis, Krajicek defeated Costa 6-4, 7-6 (8-6), 6-2 for the clay-court title.

In the tournament's doubles final, Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov and David Rikk of the Czech Republic came back from one set down to defeat American Jim Courier and Spain's Javier Sanchez Vicario 5-7, 6-1, 6-4.

Krajicek, who has one of the tour's fastest serves, took control of the match with ease after he managed to fend off Costa's challenge and win the tie-breaker in the second set.

"I came here just to test my knees and my physical condition, but I was not expecting that much. I should keep that attitude more often," Krajicek said. Feeling less pressure to perform well improved his play, Krajicek added.

Vincent Aszken scored six points during the charge and had 13 in the fourth quarter. A.C. Green hit a 17-footer with 1:55 left to bring the Suns with 102-99, but Phoenix could get no closer.

Charles Barkley scored 23 points. Cedric Ceballos had 21 and Dan Majerle chipped in with 20 for Phoenix, which was held without a field goal for 5:26 during Seattle's rally.

Seattle, which outscored Phoenix 36-19 in the decisive fourth quarter, also set a franchise record for wins in a season with 57.

The Sonics, who won the 11th time in 12 games and improved to a league-best 57-18, trailed 96-88 with 7:21 remaining before embarking on a 14-1 surge for a 102-97 lead with 2:24 to play.

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In Denver, Hakeem Olajuwon hit a 12-foot jumper with five seconds left as the Houston Rockets rallied from a 17-point deficit for a 93-92 victory over the Nuggets.

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## Nigeria wins African Cup

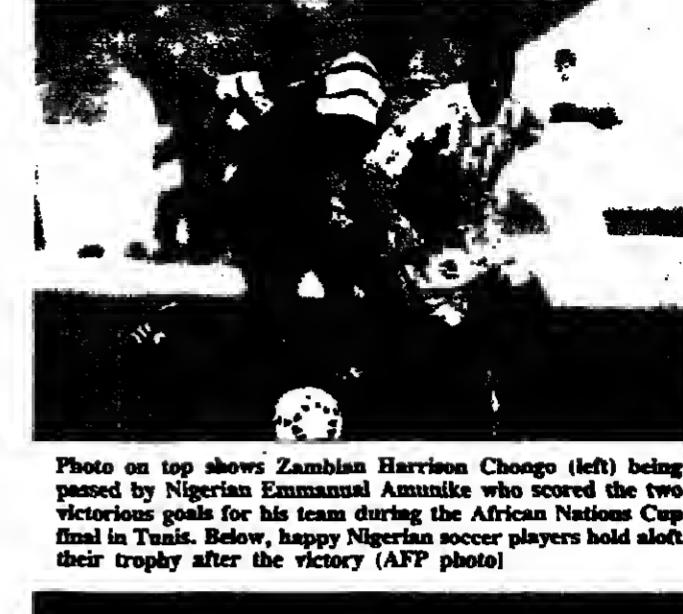


Photo on top shows Zambian Harrison Chongo (left) being passed by Nigerian Emmanuel Amunike who scored the two victorious goals for his team during the African Nations Cup final in Tunis. Below, happy Nigerian soccer players hold aloft their trophy after the victory (AFP photo

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Three civilians wounded in S. Lebanon

TYRE (R) — Israeli-backed militiamen strafed a village in South Lebanon with heavy machineguns on Monday, wounding three civilians, U.N. sources said. They said the three were wounded when South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen at Talloush post on the edge of Israel's occupation zone opened up with machineguns on the village of Qabrikha, just north of the buffer strip. Israeli and SLA forces, which routinely strafe areas outside the zone to guard against possible guerrilla attacks, killed three Palestinians attacking their posts on Saturday.

## Russians release detained plane

TEL AVIV (R) — A private Israeli airline said one of its planes, forced by Russia to land for alleged violation of the country's airspace on Saturday, returned safely to Israel on the same day. The Aerojet Airline Gulfstream-159, one flight from Tbilisi, Georgia to Tel Aviv, was carrying the pregnant wife of the deputy prime minister of Tajikistan for urgent treatment in Israel, a company spokesman said on Monday. He said Russian air controllers mistakenly contended the private jet was flying too close to Russian airspace and ordered it to land at the Black Sea city of Sochi. "The Russians didn't even apologise for their mistake," the Aerojet spokesman said. An air defence force spokesman in Moscow said on Monday a decision was made to scramble military aircraft and force the plane down. He said the crew and passengers were being held for inquiries. But the Aerojet spokesman said the plane and everyone on board were allowed to take off on Saturday after its documentation was checked. The pregnant woman, who also suffers from heart problems, is now in hospital in Israel.

## Arafat to Strasbourg this week

TUNIS (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is expected to address the European Parliament in Strasbourg on Wednesday, sources said on Monday. Mr. Arafat has also received an invitation from the "Davos Forum" to attend a meeting in Bucharest where he is expected on Friday, the sources added. Mr. Arafat's appearance in Strasbourg would be the same day that Israeli troops are supposed to have completed a withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area under terms of a peace accord signed in September. Details of the withdrawal and related issues are still being negotiated.

## Kuwait premier will pick cabinet soon

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's prime minister said in remarks published on Monday he would shortly announce a new cabinet but asked for patience while he finalised his team. "Leave this thing for a surprise. Beauty is in the surprise, brother Mohammad," Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah was quoted as telling Mohammad Al Sager, editor-in-chief of Al Qabas newspaper. "People, please give us enough time, after that we will give you not just one answer but all the answers... the time is pretty close," he was quoted as saying in a telephone interview. The cabinet submitted its resignation on Saturday following an announcement by Sheikh Saad on April 4 that he would reshuffle the cabinet to introduce a new era of reform. Sheikh Saad has not said who he would implement the reshuffle but it is expected within the next 10 days.

## Israeli settler sentenced to 3 months

TEL AVIV (R) — Baruch Marzel, detained without trial for three months last week for heading Israel's anti-Arab Kach movement, was sentenced to three more months on Monday for a riot three years ago. Israel's Itim news agency said the court handed down the sentence to Marzel for his part in disturbing a gathering of Israeli Arab leaders outside the prime minister's office. Police captured Mr. Marzel last week after a month-long manhunt. The government cracked down on hardcore militants of the Kach and Kahanei Hai (Kahane Lives) groups after an Israeli gunman killed more than 30 Palestinians in a Hebron mosque. Israel Radio quoted the judge as saying Mr. Marzel was convicted of crimes 10 times in the last 14 years.

## UAE may ban foreign marriages

DUBAI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) may consider legal restrictions to discourage male citizens from marrying foreign women instead of local ones, a UAE newspaper reported on Monday. The Gulf News daily reported the director-general of the UAE's marriage fund — which gives soft loans to help UAE men pay the high costs of local weddings — as saying he would propose new laws to make it difficult for citizens to wed foreigners. "The marriage of nationals to foreigners (has) become a threat to UAE society because of its negative influence on the nation's social, cultural, psychological and moral characteristics," Jamal Al Babb was reported as saying in a lecture to an audience of UAE women. The marriage fund was set up by UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan in 1992, and gives grants of up to 70,000 dirhams (\$19,000) to local men who marry UAE women. Officials and tribal leaders in the Gulf Arab state — where three-quarters of the population are expatriates — have said soaring costs of lavish parties, expensive gifts and dowries had led numbers of local men to choose foreign wives. The marriage fund was promised 150 million dirhams (\$41 million) in the UAE's 1994 budget, almost double the previous year's allocation.

## UAE court orders maid to be flogged

DUBAI (R) — A maid working in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has been sentenced to 50 strokes of the lash for an adulterous affair that led to her becoming pregnant, a local newspaper said on Monday. The Gulf News daily said the maid, aged 25 and identified only as S.A., was let off a two-month jail sentence for the same offence by an appeal court in the UAE emirate of Sharjah, which applies Islamic Shari'a law. The paper did not say what country the woman came from and did not disclose the identity or nationality of the man. Thousands of maids from developing countries like the Philippines and Sri Lanka work in the UAE, a wealthy oil exporting state. Gulf News reported two weeks ago that another woman, identified as Amina and aged 27, had her appeal rejected by a UAE court against a sentence of 180 lashes for the same offence. Physical punishments such as floggings are not carried out during pregnancy.

## Arafat loyalist killed in shootout

SIDON (AP) — A senior loyalist of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat was killed in a shootout with opponents at Aia Al Hilweh refugee camp Monday, security sources said. They said Hussein Abu Zeid, among the most senior officers of Mr. Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction, was fatally wounded in a fire fight with dissidents opposed to the PLO-Israel peace accord of Sept. 13. The clash occurred on a road intersection inside the teeming camp on the southeastern outskirts of Lebanon's southern port city of Sidon at 2 p.m. (1100 GMT), the sources said. The sources gave no further details beyond saying Abu Zeid became the fourth Arafat loyalist to be killed in Lebanon since the signing of the limited autonomy accord by Israel and the PLO.

## U.N. chief seeks rapid action force

FRANKFURT (R) — The United Nations needs a rapid deployment force of about 40,000 troops to respond quickly to crisis. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said in an interview published on Monday. About 20 member countries should train around 2,000 soldiers each in peacekeeping to allow the world body to bring together an emergency force within a week when needed, he told the Frankfurter daily *Allgemeine Zeitung*.



LOOTING THE DEAD: A Rwandan looter on Monday takes away a head from a house where residents were killed by bullets and machetes. Soldiers on Monday rampaged through hospitals in the Rwandan capital Kigali to finish off wounded patients as fighting continued between government forces and the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front (see page one) (AFP photo)

## Senior Turkish official to visit Iraq this week

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior Turkish official plans to visit Iraq this week for talks on the closed Iraqi pipeline that runs from Iraqi oil fields to Turkey's Mediterranean port and other bilateral issues, diplomats said Monday.

Turkish Ambassador Mehmet Ali Sancak confirmed that Ozdem Sanberk, under-secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who is now visiting Jordan, will be leaving for Baghdad on Wednesday.

The visit will be in return for a visit Iraqi Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Riyad Al Qaisi paid to Turkey in January, the ambassador said. He said the talks would include issues related to the oil pipeline. He declined to elaborate.

Other diplomatic sources said Turkey and Iraq would also discuss means to ease the sanctions and to revive the flow of Iraqi oil through the twin pipeline.

Turkey closed the pipeline immediately after the U.N. Council imposed a sweeping trade embargo against Iraq following the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"Our position has not

changed on the sanctions against Iraq," Ambassador Iremzeli told the Jordan Times. Ankara has called for an easing of the sanctions but has reaffirmed that Iraq should abide by the various U.N. Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis.

In an interview with the Jordan Times (see page 3), Mr. Sanberk himself said: "As regional country, Turkey attaches importance to an early return to normalcy in the region. We wish that Iraq once again assumes her place in the network of international relations. To this end, the framework drawn up by the U.N. Security Council resolutions must be completely filled. Iraq must adopt a clear stand to give confidence to her neighbour Kuwait."

"Embargo on Iraq continues to hurt the people of Iraq," the Turkish official said. "It has also created a very heavy economic burden for Turkey. The same problem also exists for Jordan. Cooperation between Iraq and the U.N. must be intensified. The U.N. long-term monitoring programme must be put fully into practice without delay and be effectively implemented in order that the oil embargo is lifted."

The team will continue their preparatory activities related to ongoing (long-term) monitoring and verification," Mr. Dillon said in a statement before leaving.

The U.N. Security Council banned Iraq's nuclear activities and three other weapons programmes after the 1990-91 Gulf war.

Compliance on destruction

## IAEA team prepares long-term monitoring in Iraq

MANAMA (Ageocies) — U.N. inspectors left for Baghdad on Monday to prepare for long-term monitoring to ensure that Iraq does not resurrect its nuclear programme.

An official at the U.N. regional headquarters in Bahrain said the 15-member team, headed by Britain's Garry Dillon, took off on Monday morning after arriving from the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Sunday night.

"The team will continue their preparatory activities related to ongoing (long-term) monitoring and verification," Mr. Dillon said in a statement before leaving.

The U.N. Security Council banned Iraq's nuclear activities and three other weapons programmes after the 1990-91 Gulf war.

Compliance on destruction and long-term monitoring of the weapons systems is a prerequisite to lifting the oil embargo on Iraq, though the United States has sought to add other conditions including recognition of Kuwait's border.

Mr. Dillon said the team would perform a semi-annual hydrological survey, taking water samples from around the region to try to detect any nuclear activity and more importantly to set a baseline from which to measure any future activity.

"The team will also design a surveillance installation at a machine tool workshop," he said.

Many facilities in Iraq are dual-use, able to be used for military or civilian purposes. One of the challenges in long-term monitoring is to set up cameras or other sensors to be sure the facilities are not converted to prohibited uses.

Mr. Dillon's team is the 73rd under the U.N. special commission on Iraq (UNSCOM), the 24th under the IAEA, the U.N. agency which works with UNSCOM on nuclear matters.

An UNSCOM biological weapons team went in on Friday, and a ballistic weapons team which came out from Baghdad on Friday plans to return in approximately another week. A chemical weapons team had been in Iraq at the end of March.

Mr. Dillon, who will be spending 12 days in Iraq, said: "It is anticipated that the cooperative atmosphere of the last few inspections continues."

Baghdad has been cooperating with the inspectors in recent months, in contrast with earlier moves that led to several threats of U.S. military strikes.

When satisfied that loopholes remain, the commission can recommend that the U.N. Security Council lift an embargo on vital Iraqi oil exports clamped since its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Inspectors will not say who that is likely, and their leader Rolf Ekeus has stopped referring to specific periods.

Television cameras also are going up at military industrial sites where long-range missiles could be developed secretly. The U.N. team of biological weapons experts presently is in Baghdad to prepare for monitoring in that field.

Chemical weapons experts have tagged hundreds of pieces of equipment used to produce pesticides and pharmaceuticals that can be converted to prohibited chemicals. They are deploying equipment that will absorb air samples for routine testing.

## Malek resigns as Algerian premier; Sifi is successor

TUNIS (Agencies) — Algerian President Liamine Zeroual accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Redha Malek on Monday and appointed Mokdad Sifi, equipment minister in the outgoing government, to succeed him, the official APS news agency reported.

heavily centralised economy moves towards a market-oriented structure.

Mr. Malek was a strong supporter of the IMF programme, details of which have not been made public, although it involves discussions with Algeria's creditors to reduce the country's foreign debt of \$26 billion.

Mr. Malek submitted his resignation and that of his cabinet to Mr. Zeroual, who accepted it, the communiqué said. It did not give a reason for Mr. Malek's stepping down.

Mr. Malek became premier last September, at a time when Muslim fundamentalists stepped up their violent campaign against the government, widening their random attacks to include foreigners.

The insurrection began more than two years ago when the government in January 1992 cancelled elections for a new parliament that fundamentalists were winning.

More than 3,000 people have been killed since then in violence blamed on militant Muslims.

Mr. Sifi, 53, was trained in physics and chemistry in Algiers and Paris. He has served in high-ranking posts in the ministries of commerce, public works and finance.

Mr. Malek's resignation comes two days after Algeria accepted an aid plan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the condition that it undertakes liberal structural reforms to move Algeria's

## COLUMN 8

Chinatown gang leader to return to New York

HONG KONG (R) — The alleged leader of a New York Chinatown gang wanted for murder and kidnapping dropped Monday his fight against extradition to the United States and will return from Hong Kong voluntarily. Defence lawyer Dixon Tang told the Eastern Magistrates Court that Kwok Ling-Kay and his bodyguard Li Xinghua had "decided to consent to and not contest extradition." Mr. Kwok has been identified in media reports as the "dragon head" or chief of the Fok Ching triad gang. New York Police accuse the gang of organising the voyage of the decrepit freighter *Golden Venture*, which ran aground off Queens last year carrying nearly 300 illegal immigrants from Asia. Mr. Kwok, who listened to the proceedings partially through an interpreter, said nothing but smiled frequently during the brief hearing. Mr. Tang gave no reason for the change of heart since the initial hearing in November, when both men vowed to fight extradition. Roger McMeans of the Hong Kong government's Legal Department said he was not aware of any plea bargaining surrounding the case. Both men were likely to return to the United States as early as this week. Mr. Tang said both had also waived their right to habeas corpus, which would have given them 15 days to reconsider their decision. Mr. Kwok, 31, was arrested in Hong Kong last year. U.S. authorities had sought his extradition to face 31 charges including murder and kidnapping. They include a shooting outside a Manhattan gambling club in which one person died and the attempted murder of two former members of the Fok Ching triad.

## Ex-Chinese warlord cashes in on legacy

TAIPEI (R) — Former Chinese warlord Chang Hsueh-Liang, who kidnapped Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-Shek only to spend decades under house arrest, has turned a tidy profit on his past. Mr. Chang's Chinese art collection was auctioned Sunday for Taiwan dollars 133 million (\$5 million), almost four times the pre-sale estimate.

"This visit was principally conceived as spiritual encouragement, a concrete act of solidarity with all the population of the country, which still continues to carry the physical and psychological wounds of so many years of war and violence," Mr. Navarro said. The trip also was envisioned as "an invitation to dialogue on all levels and in all dimensions."

"After having consulted with the assembly of patriarchs and with the Catholic bishops of Lebanon, with the highest authorities of the state and other figures, it was considered more opportune to postpone the trip for some time, until a more favourable moment," Mr. Navarro told reporters.

The Pope asked his envoy in Lebanon to "greet as brothers" the orthodox patriarchs whom he had hoped to meet with, Mr. Navarro said. Similarly, Pope John Paul was sending his greetings to Lebanon's Muslim community and its religious leaders.

"The Pope has once more asked for God's blessing on Lebanon and on all its citizens, expressing faith in the prompt reconstruction of a united, free, independent and sovereign country, land of brotherly coexistence between Christians and Muslims, and example of comprehension and collaboration," the Vatican spokesman said.

In Lebanon, Sheikh Mohammed Mehdi Shamseddin, spiritual leader of the 1.2 million Shi'ite Muslims, the largest sect in Lebanon, said he regretted the postponement and hoped the Pope would be able to make the trip later.

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